

Human Biology

UCAS Code: Combined Honours only (please see website for details)

Duration: 3 years | Full-time | Hope Park | 2025/2026



Course Overview

Human Biology is an ever-evolving branch of science which includes the study of the human body, the changes that occur in disease, and the interaction between humans and their environment.

With this in mind, the Human Biology Combined Honours curriculum has been designed to provide a contemporary and dynamic programme to challenge students across a broad base of key areas of the discipline.

The curriculum includes the disciplines of: anatomy and physiology of the human body, cell and molecular biology, genetics and immunology. These are covered in the context of both both normal healthy bodily-function and in contemporary disease states, including: obesity, cancer, diabetes, CVD, ageing and a selection of other diseases. Students will benefit from being taught by research-active staff with different research specialisms from across the School of Health and Sport Sciences. Graduates will leave the programme with a rounded set of subject-specific and key-transferable skills and with experience in a wide range of biological science lab techniques.

Graduates will gain experience, competence and confidence through small group learning, preparing them to succeed in a competitive and demanding employment market.

Entry Requirements

This course follows the standard University entry requirements. Please see the website for further information.

Fees and Additional Costs

The tuition fees for 2025/2026 are £9,535 for full-time undergraduate courses.

On top of your tuition fees, you will also need to consider the cost of field trips, text books, and a laboratory coat, which we estimate to cost around £300 per academic year.

You will also need to consider the cost of your accommodation each year whilst you study at university.

Visit our accommodation webpages for further details about our Halls of Residence:
www.hope.ac.uk/halls

Applicants will need access to a computer if course delivery is switched to online. The University has a laptop lending service if remote study is necessary.



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Human Biology Curriculum

Year One

The Origins of Life

Specific focus is given to cell structure and function, cell division and the cell cycle, cell specialisation and cooperation.

Systems of the Human Body

This provides a strong foundation of knowledge of human biology by developing your understanding of the structure and function of the human body, its systems, how they work and their dysfunction in disease.

Genetics, Heredity and Human Evolution

You will study the structure and function of genes and chromosomes, cell division, principles of human heredity and human evolution.

You will also focus on:

- Essential Laboratory Techniques
- Study Skills & Research Methods

Year Two

Immunology

In this important branch of human biology, you will gain an understanding of innate, active/passive and adaptive immunity.

Molecular Biology

You will study the physiology basis of diseases affecting a variety of organ systems (chronic, infectious and age-related).

Investigative Methods in Disease Biology and Practical Techniques in Molecular and Cellular Biology

Across the second year, you will continue a programme of more advanced lab-based practicals and seminars which will extend your subject-specific and transferable skill set.

Year Three

Degenerative Disease Biology

You will develop an advanced understanding of the mechanisms by which diseases and ageing affect the human body and how such detrimental changes may be assessed in the lab.

Immunology

This specialist part of the course focuses on immunology and will provide you with a further understanding of the complexities of normal function and dysfunction of the immune system in cancer.

Cell signalling

You will develop and apply your understanding of molecular biology and biochemistry to gain a more in depth understanding of cell-signalling pathways.

Clinical Genetics

This contemporary topic provides you with a more advanced understanding of the genetic changes that cause diseases.

In the first year of study, there are approximately 12 teaching hours each week, of Human Biology, which reduces to approximately 10 teaching hours in the second and third years. On top of usual teaching hours, students are also expected to spend approximately 30 hours studying independently each week (across both subjects), as well as studying in groups to prepare for any group assessments. Staff are available every week for one-to-one tutorial meetings in their office hours.

ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK

In the Human Biology programme, there are a number of coursework assessments, as well as examinations in the summer term of the second and third year. These exams are typically worth 25% of the second and third years.

Assessments are wide-ranging in design and format, enabling students to excel. Assessment types include: scientific/laboratory reports, critiques, essays, individual and group oral/poster presentations, MCTs, portfolios, case studies, and practical lab/data-driven tests. We provide comprehensive online feedback for all coursework and future support, with the opportunity to discuss this further with academics if required.

In the third year, students complete an independent research project in Human Biology or a double-weighting dissertation combining both subject studies for the combined honours award. This permits specialism in a particular topic of interest, whilst being guided through the process by an expert in the field.

COURSE STRUCTURE

Teaching on this degree is structured into lectures, where all students are taught together, seminars and lab practicals of smaller groups of around 15 - 20 students, and small group tutorials. Practical labs are a strong feature of the course and students are typically taught in this environment most term weeks. On top of teaching hours, first year students may have the opportunity to take part in a short field trip to the University's Plas Caerdeon outdoor education facility in North Wales.



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